required. However, there are possibilities that the content may be changed by some unknown reasons or may be intentionally tampered by the user.

The analysis section 6 performs an analysis whether the products selected by the user to request a quotation include improper products, whether the products are selected in a combination that cannot be selected, whether the quotation amount cannot possibly be true, to thereby determine the appropriateness of the quotation calculation result 11.

The quotation recalculation section 7 has a function to recalculate a quotation at the server 2 under the same condition in which the quotation is calculated on the receiving terminal 3, when the result of quotation calculation obtained at the receiving terminal 3 is returned to the server 2.

When the analysis section 6 determines that the quotation calculation result 11 is not appropriate, the quotation recalculation section 7 operates.

Alternatively, the following method can be adapted. When the user makes a formal quotation request, only the data related to the products selected by the user included in the quotation calculation result 11 is used, and a quotation is always recalculated. In this manner, even when a problem occurs in the quotation calculation program in the Web page 10, the situation in which an erroneous quotation is issued can be perfectly prevented.

The quotation calculation is automatically executed at the user-side in order to meet the demands by the users who want to know results of quotation calculations in real time.

If the server-side 2 calculates a quotation at each request, the load for the calculation process is imposed on the server-side 2.

If many users request for quotation calculations at the same time, the processing capability of the server lowers and the traffic on the network 1 increases. As a result, the speed to display the result on the receiving terminal 3 may slow down. By transmitting the Web page having the automatic calculation function to the user's receiving terminal 3, the calculation processing load in trial quotation calculations that may be imposed on the server-side can be alleviated.

The quotation calculation result 11 obtained at the receiving terminal 3 is returned to the server 2. This means that the user provides a formal quotation request, which is not a trial quotation request. The server-side 10 performs a recalculation only in such a case, which does not result in a substantial increase in the load. Accordingly, while the quotation calculation function is retained at the user-side, a harmful influence that may be caused by tampering on the Web page can be prevented.

It is noted that, when the quotation calculation result at the receiving terminal does not concur with a result of the recalculation, a measure may preferably be taken to notify the same to the user.

The timer section 8 has a function to measure time between the time when the Web page 10 is transmitted and the time when the Web page 10 is returned, when the quotation calculation result 11 on the receiving terminal 3 is returned to the server 2. When the measured time is within a predetermined time range, a determination is made that the quotation is valid. In other words, when the quotation calculation result 11 is returned to the server 2 after a substantially long time has passed, the quotation recalculation section 7 operates automatically. As a result, an erroneous quotation is prevented from being issued, for example, in the case where a quotation result that was obtained using a Web page transmitted before prices and specifications were changed is returned to the server at a later date.

The predetermined time may be set such that, for example, only a quotation that uses the latest version of a Web page is made valid.

Although a Web page may be formed based on the latest data of unit prices of products and provided to the user, a quotation calculation result obtained by the use of the Web page may arrive at the server after a long time has passed. In such a case, there are possibilities that the unit prices of the products, the delivery situation, the inventory situation and the like may have been changed. For example, when the present invention is used in quotations for a tour plan by a travel agency, there are possibilities that the vacancy situation of reserved seats on the transportation, the number of applicants with respect to the number limit in the tour, the vacancy situation of hotel rooms and the like may frequently change in a short time.

Accordingly, the use of the function of the timer section 8 has the effect that the quotation calculation can be redone with the latest information. At the same time, it provides a countermeasure against tampering with the Web page. The timer section 8 may also be used to expand the function of the analysis section 6, or may be used instead of the analysis section 6 if the analysis section 6 is not provided. It is noted that, if a Web page includes data that identifies its version, the analysis section 6 can check the version of the Web page. When the version of the Web page is the latest version or within a predetermined version range that does not cause any problem to the quotation calculation, the result of the quotation calculation is made valid.

A more specific operation of the system shown in figure 1 is described below.

Fig. 2 shows an illustration that describes an example of the Web page. The Web page 10 in the figure is an example that is transmitted to the receiving terminal 3 and used for a quotation calculation. Initially, the user selects parts of his preference using a selection list 13

shown in the figure. In the case of a personal computer, the user freely selects a CPU, a video board, a memory capacity and the like.

When parts are selected, a script for a quotation calculation that is written in the Web page 10 calculates a quotation using information relating to unit prices of the parts written in the Web page 10 and displays a calculated value in a section of a quotation result 14. When the user completes selection of all the required parts and clicks a quotation-preparation button 15, a quotation calculation result 11 is transmitted to the server 2. The quotation calculation result 11 includes a quotation calculation value composed of a list of product codes of the selected products, a subtotal, a shipping fee, a sales tax, unit prices and the like.

Fig. 3 (a) shows an illustration that describes a method for analyzing the quotation calculation result 11, and Fig. 3 (b) shows a flowchart of an operation of a server that focuses on an operation of the analysis section 6 in which the quotation calculation result 11 is used.

As shown in Fig. 3 (a), the list of product codes included in the quotation calculation result 11 received by the server is compared with product information 20 stored in the database storage section 9 for verification. As a result, for example, when a product code of a product that should not be included in any one of the selection lists is included or an improbable combination of products is present, the analysis section 6 makes a determination that they are not proper.

Also, the quotation calculation amount made of a subtotal, a shipping fee, a sales tax, unit prices and the like is compared with predetermined determination criteria 21.

For example, when the respective calculated values are 0- or negative, a determination is made that the quotation is not valid. In addition, the determination criteria 21 can contain a variety of other contents.

Fig. 3 (b) shows an operation of the analysis section 6. First, the analysis section 6 reads the product codes in step S1.

The database storage section 9 is looked up in step S2 to make a determination whether or not the products are properly selected. Further, the quotation calculation values are read in step S3, and a determination is made in step S4 as to whether or not the quotation calculation values are proper.

When it is determined in step S2 and step S4 that the quotation calculation result 11 is entirely proper, the quotation issuing section 12 shown in Fig. 1 is operated in step S5, and the quotation calculation result 11 that is returned from the receiving terminal 3 is used as it is to issue a formal quotation.

On the other hand, when it is determined in step S2 and step S4 that a part of the quotation calculation result 11 is not proper, the quotation recalculation section 7 is operated to